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NO. 18.

Maine Farmer.N. T. TRUE,
S. L. BOARDMAN, Editors.

Our Home, Our Country, and our Brother Man.

Similarity of Purpose in the Structure of Plants and Animals.

One cannot fail to be impressed with the similarity of purpose exhibited in the structure of plants and animals, while the organs designed for special use are greatly diversified. The arm of a man has the same fundamental idea in its structure as the fore leg of a horse, though widely different in external appearance. The paddle of a dolphin, the pectoral fin of a fish, the wing of a bird are essentially the same.

We now look at the method by which these organs are attached to the body, we shall still see a variety of purpose in the great plan. No animal with a back bone has the fore limb connected with it by a bony structure. The arm of man is attached to the shoulder blade, while the latter is separated from the backbone by another structure. Every butcher sees this in cutting up the four quarters of an animal. The same holds true with fishes and birds. This structure gives great flexibility in their adaptation to the various wants of the body. The same similarity of purpose yet diversity of structure may be seen in plants as in animals. Look at the jointed runners of the witch-grass, or couch grass. It has all the appearance of a root, but the plant is supplied with other real roots and these creepers under ground are only the ascending stems of the plant seeking a plan to emerge from the ground in the shape of a stock, after it has thrown out its fibrous roots for a support. So the tuber of the potato belongs rather to the stem than to the root, the bulb of a tulip or an onion is the same. The only difference between the runners of the strawberry and the couch-grass, is that one runs above ground and the other beneath. All these plants have separate organs for roots whose tendency is downward while that of runners is upward.

It is no uncommon thing for us to form a wrong classification of animals. How easily is it for us to regard all the varieties of the bat as belonging to the family of birds. But if we examine their structure a little more closely, we shall see that they have fur instead of feathers, that they bring forth their young alive and nurse them as quadrupeds. They more nearly resemble the flying squirrel than the bat. So also if we examine the structure of the whale we shall no longer regard it as a fish, as it has all the essential structure to constitute a quadruped. This, too, brings forth its young alive and nurses them. It has a double circulation and warm blood, and is compelled to breath atmospheric air like quadrupeds, in spite of its fish-like habits in other respects. The barnacle which covers the rocks on the seashore, whenever the tide ebbs and flows is not classed with the mussel and clam as its shell-like covering and fixed position would indicate, but it really belongs to the lobster and crab family. When first hatched, it swims about the water, having the same jointed structure and head as these, till at last it becomes permanently attached to some object, when it is covered with a shell like substance. Such are some of the diversities and similarities in the structure of plants and animals.

Insects affecting the Gooseberry.

Messrs. Enrons.—I have a fine lot of English gooseberry bushes which blossom well, and the fruit at first, bids fair to do well, but before it is half grown, the worms entirely destroy the crop. I have sifted ashes over the bushes in the spring, to no effect, and if you can give me some remedy you will confer a great favor upon many who are suffering from the same cause. A. READER.

Nore. Several kinds of worms prey upon the gooseberry, one of the most common of which is the "gooseberry worm"—a round bodied, and curiously marked measuring worm, about an inch long, having ten legs, six in front and four behind. This worm is sometimes very destructive to the leaves, often completely stripping the bushes of them, and it is frequently found rolled up in them like the bud worm. In descending from the bush, this worm suspends himself by a thread. The most effectual remedy is to knock the worms off into a dustpan and burn them. It is not so slow a process as would at first seem.

Very often the fruit of the gooseberry becomes prematurely ripe, turns red and drops to the ground. This is caused by insects puncturing the berry and depositing their eggs within. Early in July the maggots appear in the fruit, which complete their transformations and give out the winged flies the latter part of the month. They not infrequently deposit a second crop of eggs in the gooseberry, the larvae of which remain in the ground during the winter and are ready again to deposit their eggs in June. This insect is called the Gooseberry maggot (*Cecidomyia Grossulariae*). Something can be done towards destroying them by gathering the fruit which ripens prematurely, and that which falls to the ground—burning it in the fire. This destroys the worms contained in the berries, and by giving attention to the matter they can be got rid of, if there are no wild gooseberries for them to prey upon. The bushes of the latter should also be destroyed.—Eos.

Offer of Mr. Bulkley.

We have received the following letter from D. A. Bulkley, Esq., of Williamstown, Mass., the originator of several improved varieties of potatoes, and an intelligent and practical agriculturist. The offer he makes is a generous one, but as we are not in a situation to use them, we hope some one of our subscribers will take them who have opportunities for their culture. If so, will they please inform us that we may order them forwarded at once:

WILLIAMSTOWN, Mass., April 3, 1865.

DEAR SIR:—I wish to contribute my mite to the propagation of your Library, and will send a barrel of my seedling potato to you or any one you may order, the price to be added to the fund in your hands for that purpose. I enclose you circular in which you will find the testimony of the late Dr. Hoimes, who cultivated them two seasons, and any one will only need to know that he approved of them to be convinced of their good qualities, and if generally planted in your State, they would add thousands of dollars to the wealth of her people.

D. A. BULKLEY.

Notes from our Copy Drawer.

IMPLEMENTs. (Subscriber, Penobrake.) The price of the one-horse Cayuga Chief Mower is \$150 delivered at the port in Biddeford, the place where they are manufactured. Any mower works better on smooth ground, but we are told the Cayuga Chief will do very good work on a rough or uneven surface. Chandler's Horse Hoe can be procured of D. M. Dunham & Co., Bangor. We do not know the price.

SODA CRACKERS. (Lady Reader, Sherman Mills)

We find the following in a large number of the American Agriculturist: "Take three tea-cupsful of sweet milk, one of butter, thirteen of flour, four teaspoonsful of cream of tartar, two of soda. Dissolve the soda and a little salt in the milk, put the cream of tartar into the flour, and rub the butter into the flour, then mix with the milk. Roll very thin, prick very thickly, cut into squares, and bake in a quick oven."

TRUE'S POTATO PLANTER. (C. Foster, W. Gardner.) They can be had of the manufacturer, J. L. True, Garland, Me. You better address him direct. The price of the machine we do not know.

SPECIMEN of WOOL. Mr. N. L. Marshall of West Paris sends us a sample of wool from one of his buck lambs, of the Cotswold breed. The specimen sent in length and quality is in striking contrast to those of the Merino we have seen, being 14 inches in length. Mr. Marshall writes, "It is a gravelly soil considerably intermixed with decomposed forest leaves. He manures them by buying old horses in the fall, cutting them up fine and burying them deep, several feet from his vines. He fastens iron pins into the rocks above the vines and stretches iron wire from pin to pin for a trellis. The last two years he sold thirty-two dollars worth. He has started several other kinds which promise well as the ordinary kinds ripen well. He cultivated the ground about his grapevines and then harvested his grapes with strawberries, with excellent success."

How pleasant it would be to see such a natural terrace covered its whole length with grapes. Are there not other sightless, craggy, useless looking ledges elsewhere in Maine that might be covered with grapes?

Grapes.

There is a bluf known as Bradbury's Mountain Powral, in this State, about five hundred feet high, whose southern and eastern declivities are made up of terraces or steps of granite, having a small portion of soil on the different steps. We have thought for many years that the grape might be easily cultivated on these terraces. It is well known that land elevated a few hundred feet on the declivities of hills, is not subject to the autumnal frosts as that situated at a lower level. We are glad to learn that the experiment has been tried there on a limited scale with complete success. Mr. Jacob H. Cotton of that town, planted the Isabella and Hartford Prolific, four years ago this spring, on these terraces at the eastern base of the mountain. It is a gravelly soil considerably intermixed with decomposed forest leaves. He manures them by buying old horses in the fall, cutting them up fine and burying them deep, several feet from his vines. He fastens iron pins into the rocks above the vines and stretches iron wire from pin to pin for a trellis. The last two years he sold thirty-two dollars worth. He has started several other kinds which promise well as the ordinary kinds ripen well. He cultivated the ground about his grapevines and then harvested his grapes with strawberries, with excellent success."

This arrangement will not be so convenient as the other, still it will pay well for the trouble. All the means of increasing the amount of manure should be carefully attended to, notwithstanding it may cost considerable labor. There is no labor spent that pays better in the end. —Z. A. G. Greene, April 1, 1865.

For the Maine Farmer.

Poultry. —

It is surprising to me that there is so little interest manifested in this State in poultry, looking at it either in a pecuniary point of view, or for pleasure. I am aware that there is a good deal of hubub in this matter, as there is in every thing else, to a greater or less extent, but it is not so much that need be done as one desirous much, if he only continues his education before he makes his purchases.

I have thought it best to make a few general remarks on the purchase and treatment of fowls, before giving the characteristics of any distinct species as I propose to do from week to week, through your columns, hoping to give some information and practical advice to those who are interested in the raising of fowls.

It is the common stock of those that wish to improve their stock or get an imported breed; "I cannot afford to pay such prices as you ask," and "I can buy just as good at a far less price." My reply is, and my experience has been, that the hen is the cheapest, and the man that has imported fowl himself, ever remunerated first costs. The importer was this, "I will be glad to sell you a pair of pullets, but I will not be paid for them until he has sold his own stock, and you seldom find it in this country. Our people are so fond of crossing with this, that and the other, to see what variety they can produce out of the regular line, that a man must be thoroughly educated to tell the pure breed. I do not believe in crossing, and always breed to obtain the pure stock of knowledge and experience, and to keep the best stock of those that wish to improve their stock or get an imported breed; "I cannot afford to pay such prices as you ask," and "I can buy just as good at a far less price." 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WHAT THE ILLUSTRIOUS ABERNETHY
SAID.

"Well, sir, what's the matter?" said Abernethy, the great
English surgeon, to a cadaverous looking patient, who had
called to consult him. "Oh, nothing serious," was the reply
when he looked at the man's face, "but you can't take away,
the city authorities had all the liquors thrown into the gutters, but the rebel soldiers managed
to get intoxicated, and a scene of wild devasta-
tion followed.

Major Stevens' cavalry were first at the Capitol, but the honor of actually raising the stars and
strips belonged to G. W. Smith, adj-
camp. Gen. Shirley, whose head-
quarters flag was hoisted. Strict martial law is en-
forced. The Union officers and soldiers, white
and black, behave nobly. Private property is
respected.

Lee's forces are demoralized beyond descrip-
tion, and Gordon's once noted second corps, which
form the rear guard of the last week's
races, is in ruins, or stragglers. The wounded remain at houses on either side of
the route of march, while thousands of conscripts
are availing themselves of the occasion to ske-
daddle at their homes.

Two of Hill's division commanders were wounded,
one mortally; and of the 12,000 veterans who
went into the commencement of the last week's
fighting, one-half are now with their colors.
Lee's entire force is estimated at from
25,000 to 40,000 fighting men.

Sheridan is south of the Army of the Potomac,
and in advance of it. If he can get around Lee's
forces the doom of the rebel army may be regard-
ed as sealed. The Union troops are flushed with
victory and confident of success.

**More Glorious News—Lee's Army Again
Captured**

To the Hon. Secretary of War:

CITY POINT, April 7—8 A. M. At 11.5
P. M. yesterday, at Berkswell Station, Gen.
Grant sends me the following from Gen. Sheridan:

(Signed) A. LINCOLN.

April 6—11, 15 P. M.

To Lieut. Gen. Grant:

I have the honor to report that the army made
a stand at the intersection of the Bark's Station
road with the road upon which they were retreat-
ing.

I attacked them with two divisions of the 6th
Army Corps and routed them handsomely, making
a stand at the same place the enemy had just
been pressing on with both cavalry and infantry.

Up to the present time we have captured Gen-
erals Ewell, Kershaw, Butler, Conner, and
Custer Lee, several thousand prisoners, four-
teen pieces of artillery with caissons and a large
number of wagons.

If the thing is pressed I think Lee will surren-
der.

(Signed) P. H. SHERIDAN, Major General, Commanding.

Secretary of War:

CITY POINT, April 7—9 A. M. The following
further intelligence is just received.

A. LINCOLN.

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY, APRIL 6.

Lieut. Gen. Grant:

At 11.5 P. M. yesterday, I moved the 21st, 5th and 6th army corps along the railroad in the direction of Anicia Court House. Soon after moving reliable intelligence was received that the enemy was moving toward Farmville. The direction of the 5th and 6th army corps was immediately changed from a northerly to a northwest direction, and the directing corps, the 2d, moving on Deatonville, and the 5th, heretofore in command of the right wing, moving to the left, and the 6th facing about and moving to the left flank, taking a position on the left of the 2d.

It was understood that the cavalry would operate on the extreme left. The changes were promptly made.

The 2d Army Corps soon became engaged with the enemy near Deatonville, driving him by the right and safety, and reached the Appomattox.

The 5th Army Corps made a long march, but its position prevented its striking the enemy's column before it had passed.

The 6th army corps came up with the enemy about 4 P. M., and in connection with the 2d on the right and cavalry on the left, attacked and routed the enemy, capturing many prisoners, among whom Gen. Custer Lee, and Capt. Custer Lee.

It is impossible at this moment to give any exact estimate of the casualties on either side, or the number of prisoners taken; but it is evident that to-day's work is going to be one of the most important of the recent brilliant operations.

The pursuit will be continued as soon as the men have a little rest.

Gen. Griffin with the 5th army corps will be moved by the left, and Wright and Humphreys' will continue the pursuit as long as it promises success.

(Signed) G. MEADE, Maj. Gen.

Movements of Sherman and Hancock—Imme-
mense Destruction of Property in Rich-
mond.

New York, April 8. Henry S. Foote, late of the rebel Congress, who arrived here the other day in an emigrant ship from Europe, has been ordered to be kept in confinement in this city. He has violated some agreement with the State Department.

The Herald's Washington despatch says:

Major General Hancock, with infantry, artil-
lery and cavalry, moved to head off Lee on the 4th inst. The rebels were well equipped and sup-
plied for a long march.

A letter from Goloboro says General Sherman had not yet moved. The army had, however, been fully supplied with clothing and provisions, and was ready for any emergency.

Johnston's main force was twelve miles north-
west of Goldsboro. There were no indications that he intended to make a stand there.

The Times' Richmond correspondent says:

The destruction of property here by fire will amount to \$10,000,000.

It is positively asserted that Breckinridge gave the order to start the fire.

The city is perfectly quiet, and the conduct of our troops admirable.

The Tribune's Richmond correspondent says:

We have heard from the minister in the church he went to, and left the church, all eyes being centered upon him. When services were concluded the minister was handed a note, and he, too, hastened off as rapidly as possible.

Among the first to seek an interview with the President was Judge Campbell. He was with him half an hour, and again longer the next day. On the part of the citizens there was generally a deep silence.

Wilmington, April 8. The Richmond Whig of Thursday evening says:

The transition from enormous prices and depreciated currency, to reasonable rates and real money, has come so suddenly upon the citizens that it will be some time before they can properly realize the change.

Better, that was scarce at \$25.00 per pound, is now plentiful at from 50 to 60 cents; eggs, that were bid away at 22.00 per dozen, can be had at 30 cents, and other commodities are at an equal rate.

For wood, leather, crockery, and other substances, the best price is 10 cents, and the same can be had at 5 cents.

For salt, soap, and other substances, the best price is 10 cents, and the same can be had at 5 cents.

For tobacco, the best price is 10 cents, and the same can be had at 5 cents.

For tea, coffee, and other substances, the best price is 10 cents, and the same can be had at 5 cents.

For sugar, the best price is 10 cents, and the same can be had at 5 cents.

For flour, the best price is 10 cents, and the same can be had at 5 cents.

For bacon, the best price is 10 cents, and the same can be had at 5 cents.

For ham, the best price is 10 cents, and the same can be had at 5 cents.

For butter, the best price is 10 cents, and the same can be had at 5 cents.

For cheese, the best price is 10 cents, and the same can be had at 5 cents.

For bacon, the best price is 10 cents, and the same can be had at 5 cents.

For ham, the best price is 10 cents, and the same can be had at 5 cents.

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